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Melting pot ≠ Strainer

In today’s society we cannot go without seeing or even talking to someone who has a different heritage background, or different language. When we go to the grocery store, the football game, even to church we see different diversity in all places. Furthermore some people in our country deem highly that we need to have a legal language so that we can all talk amuck our self’s. To solve this bitter sweet conflict we should look back into history and really see how many people really do speak English up to today.

On the contrary do people ever think about how their ancestors came to America looking for work and they did not know how to speak English. Before 1855 there was no immigrant processing center so the government would just get a passenger list then send then on their route for a new life and beginning. Even before there was customs and immigrant laws many of our great ancestors where never required to learn English before coming a United States citizen. However “From August 1, 1855 through April 18, 1890….. The State of New York opened the very first examining and processing center for immigrants on an island off the southwest tip of Manhattan (Castle Garden)” (Smith 1). Since 1890 immigrants where sub post to learn English before the government would grant them citizenship—even then our government did not set the motion to enforce immigrants to learn the proper American language.

English is such an excessive spoken language in American then why is there over 25 different languages spoken in our country. If government enforced a law to make English the official language of the United States of American that means we will have to command over 45 million people will have to learn English and us it every day for the rest of their lives. After all of the 45 million people had learned English are they really going to us it in their everyday life style. As a consequence of them not speaking English are we going to arrest them for speaking their native tongue over our official language?

In spite of the concerns about making America only having on national language is like telling our nation the “melting pot” to become a strainer whipping out all other languages so we can turn out true Americans that speak English. American is not about having to learn the English language but it’s about opportunities; the opportunities of starting over fresh, following your dream, and making yourself proud to be in America. Why do we want to change our astonishing nation that is made up of different cultures, religions, and languages? If we did make English the official language of American then we would be out of: traditions that have been passed down for century of years, ethnicity would not exist amount our nation.

Work cited

Smith, Marian24 January 2008, <http://members.tripod.com/~L\_Alfano/immig.htm>.